KY REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE
Proposed Project Involving General Funds
(amount in **bold** is the total budget)

2016-2018

1   KREF System Modernization **$1,836,000**

This project would modernize the system, improve efficiency of the office, and enable the agency to process and manage voluminous amounts of campaign finance information entered into the system. Increasing demands are being placed on the system and KREF staff every year.   The amount of candidate and committee information, receipts, and disbursements inputted into the system is dramatically increasing with each election cycle. KREF staff must manually key the vast majority of campaign finance information into the system. A modernized system would enable KREF staff to change their focus from being data entry keyers of campaign finance information to reviewers of it, and assure the agency fulfills its statutory mandate.

The greater underlying concern though is the state of the system itself. The system was built in the mid-1990s by the Commonwealth Office of Technology to run on Microsoft's Windows XP operating system. Microsoft's support for the Windows XP operating system ceased in April 2014. Thus, Microsoft no longer provides operating system or security updates for Windows XP.   Further, the Windows Server 2003 operating system, which the system also utilizes, ceased to be supported by Microsoft as of July 2015. Lastly, Oracle ended support for the Oracle 9 database software, on which the system was built, in July 2012. Thus KREF is currently operating the system in a totally unsupported computer environment. KREF's operating budget is not adequate to fund the necessary modernization. Continued lack of funding to support the necessary modernization could result, at best, in reduced access and availability to the public of campaign finance reports and related data. At worst, there could be a catastrophic failure of the system, leaving KREF in the unfortunate position of failing to have the necessary resources and tools to discharge its statutory duties under KRS Chapter 121, thereby rendering it wholly ineffectual.

The scope of work would include reconstruction of the system in a current programming language such as Microsoft.Net, upgrading the existing Oracle database to the latest version, and upgrading all Microsoft server and desktop operating system software. Due to the complexity of the system, at a minimum, it will take two years to redefine the system and implement it into production. (IT)

CPAB Staff Notes
- *NEW project – KREF, like other boards and commissions, does not typically submit capital projects.*
- *The current operating system, built in the 1990s, operates on Windows XP. Microsoft's support for Windows XP ceased in April 2014.*
- *Professional implementation services of $951,000 account for about 52% of the project's total cost. Hardware and software support and maintenance average $139,000 annually.*
- *This project was designated as 'High Value' by the Commonwealth Office of Technology during its review of proposed capital IT projects for the 2016-2018 biennium.*